



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - October 9, 2003**

- ***In the West***, warm, dry weather continues to promote autumn fieldwork, although drought-related concerns include a lack of moisture for ***Northwestern*** winter grains and water-supply issues throughout the ***Great Basin, Southwest, and Intermountain West***.
- ***On the Plains***, beneficial showers linger from ***central Texas northward into southeastern Kansas***. Meanwhile, a return to warm, dry weather on the ***southern High Plains*** favors open-boll cotton and is promoting winter wheat emergence. However, warm, persistently dry conditions on the ***northern and central High Plains*** are further reducing soil moisture reserves and hampering wheat germination and establishment.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, aside from isolated showers and thunderstorms in ***Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois***, warm, dry weather favors corn and soybean dry down and harvesting. In addition, winter wheat planting continues to advance from the ***Ohio Valley into the lower Great Lakes region***.
- ***In the South***, showers are overspreading areas ***west of the Delta***, causing minor fieldwork delays. Farther east, locally heavy showers are causing some harvest delays in the ***southern Mid-Atlantic region***.

**Outlook:** During the next few days, a slow-moving disturbance will trigger locally heavy rain in the ***Southeastern and southern Mid-Atlantic States***, while a second storm system will produce showers and thunderstorms across portions of the ***southern Plains and Delta***. Farther north, a strong high-pressure system will provide mild, dry weather to the ***Northeast and Midwest***, while late-season heat will linger on the ***northern and central Plains***. ***West of the Rockies***, a series of disturbances will maintain cool, unsettled weather in the ***Pacific Northwest***, while showers will return to parts of the ***Southwest*** by week's end. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for October 14-18 calls for above-normal precipitation in ***southern Texas*** and from the ***Ohio and middle Mississippi Valleys northeastward into New England***. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal conditions are expected across ***southern Florida***, the ***upper Midwest***, and from the ***High Plains westward to the Pacific Coast***. Above-normal temperatures are expected ***west of the Rockies***, while cooler-than-normal conditions are forecast across the ***eastern half of the U.S.***

**Contact:** Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)

**Web Site:** <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>